

Proposed Amendments to Independent Claims of Application
U.S. Appl. No. 10/785,065
to Berg

1. (Currently amended) A self-cleaning apparatus for transferring, collecting, and disposing of waste material from a patient, comprising:

a flexible waste material transfer hose having a length for transferring waste material from the patient to the apparatus, said waste material transfer hose having an inlet at a first end of said hose and an outlet at a second end of said hose[for transferring waste material from the patient to the apparatus];

a waste material collection chamber having a collection chamber inlet in communication with said outlet of said waste material transfer hose, [and] a collection chamber outlet, and a vacuum source opening;

a vacuum source connected to said waste material collection chamber at said vacuum source opening by a vacuum line; and

a cleaning fluid chamber for receiving a cleaning fluid, said cleaning fluid chamber having a cleaning fluid chamber inlet [for receiving] which receives said inlet of said waste material transfer hose[inlet] by insertion of said waste material transfer hose inlet into said cleaning fluid chamber inlet, such that when said waste material transfer hose inlet is inserted into said cleaning fluid chamber inlet, the cleaning fluid is drawn into and through the length of said waste material transfer hose and said waste material collection chamber, by said vacuum source, to clean said waste material transfer hose and said waste material collection chamber.

OR

1. (Currently amended) A self-cleaning apparatus for transferring, collecting, and disposing of waste material from a patient, comprising:

a flexible waste material transfer hose having a length for transferring waste material from the patient to the apparatus, said waste material transfer hose having an inlet at a first end of said hose and an outlet at a second end of said hose[for transferring waste material from the patient to the apparatus];

a waste material collection chamber having a collection chamber inlet in communication with said outlet of said waste material transfer hose, [and] a collection chamber outlet, and a vacuum source opening;

a vacuum source connected to said waste material collection chamber at said vacuum source opening by a vacuum line; and

a cleaning fluid chamber for receiving a cleaning fluid and positioned proximate to said waste material transfer hose and said waste material collection chamber, said cleaning fluid chamber having a cleaning fluid chamber inlet [for receiving] which receives said inlet of said waste material transfer hose[inlet] by insertion of said waste material transfer hose inlet into said

cleaning fluid chamber inlet, such that when said waste material transfer hose inlet is inserted into said cleaning fluid chamber inlet, the cleaning fluid is drawn into and through the length of said waste material transfer hose and said waste material collection chamber, by said vacuum source, to clean said waste material transfer hose and said waste material collection chamber.

10. (Currently amended) An apparatus for transferring, collecting and disposing of a material, comprising:

a flexible material transfer hose having a length for transferring material to the apparatus, said material transfer hose having an inlet at a first end of said hose and an outlet at a second end of said hose[for transferring material to the apparatus];

a material collection chamber having a collection chamber inlet in communication with said outlet of said material transfer hose, [and]a collection chamber outlet, and a vacuum source opening;

a vacuum source connected to said material collection chamber at said vacuum source opening by a vacuum line to draw material into said material collection chamber through said inlet of said material transfer hose;

a disposal pump in communication with said collection chamber outlet to pump material out of said material collection chamber to dispose of material; and

a cleaning fluid chamber for receiving a cleaning fluid, said cleaning fluid chamber having a cleaning fluid chamber inlet [for receiving]which receives said inlet of said material transfer hose[inlet]by insertion of said material transfer hose inlet into said cleaning fluid chamber inlet, such that when said material transfer hose inlet is inserted into said cleaning fluid chamber inlet, the cleaning fluid is drawn into and through said inlet of said material transfer hose, by said vacuum source, to clean said material transfer hose, said material collection chamber and said disposal pump.

OR

10. (Currently amended) An apparatus for transferring, collecting and disposing of a material, comprising:

a flexible material transfer hose having a length for transferring material to the apparatus, said material transfer hose having an inlet at a first end of said hose and an outlet at a second end of said hose[for transferring material to the apparatus];

a material collection chamber having a collection chamber inlet in communication with said outlet of said material transfer hose, [and]a collection chamber outlet, and a vacuum source opening;

a vacuum source connected to said material collection chamber at said vacuum source opening by a vacuum line to draw material into said material collection chamber through said inlet of said material transfer hose;

a disposal pump in communication with said collection chamber outlet to pump material out of said material collection chamber to dispose of material; and

a cleaning fluid chamber for receiving a cleaning fluid and positioned proximate to said waste material transfer hose and said waste material collection chamber, said cleaning fluid chamber having a cleaning fluid chamber inlet [for receiving]which receives said inlet of said material transfer hose[inlet]by insertion of said material transfer hose inlet into said cleaning fluid chamber inlet, such that when said material transfer hose inlet is inserted into said cleaning fluid chamber inlet, the cleaning fluid is drawn into and through said inlet of said material transfer hose, by said vacuum source, to clean said material transfer hose, said material collection chamber and said disposal pump.

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